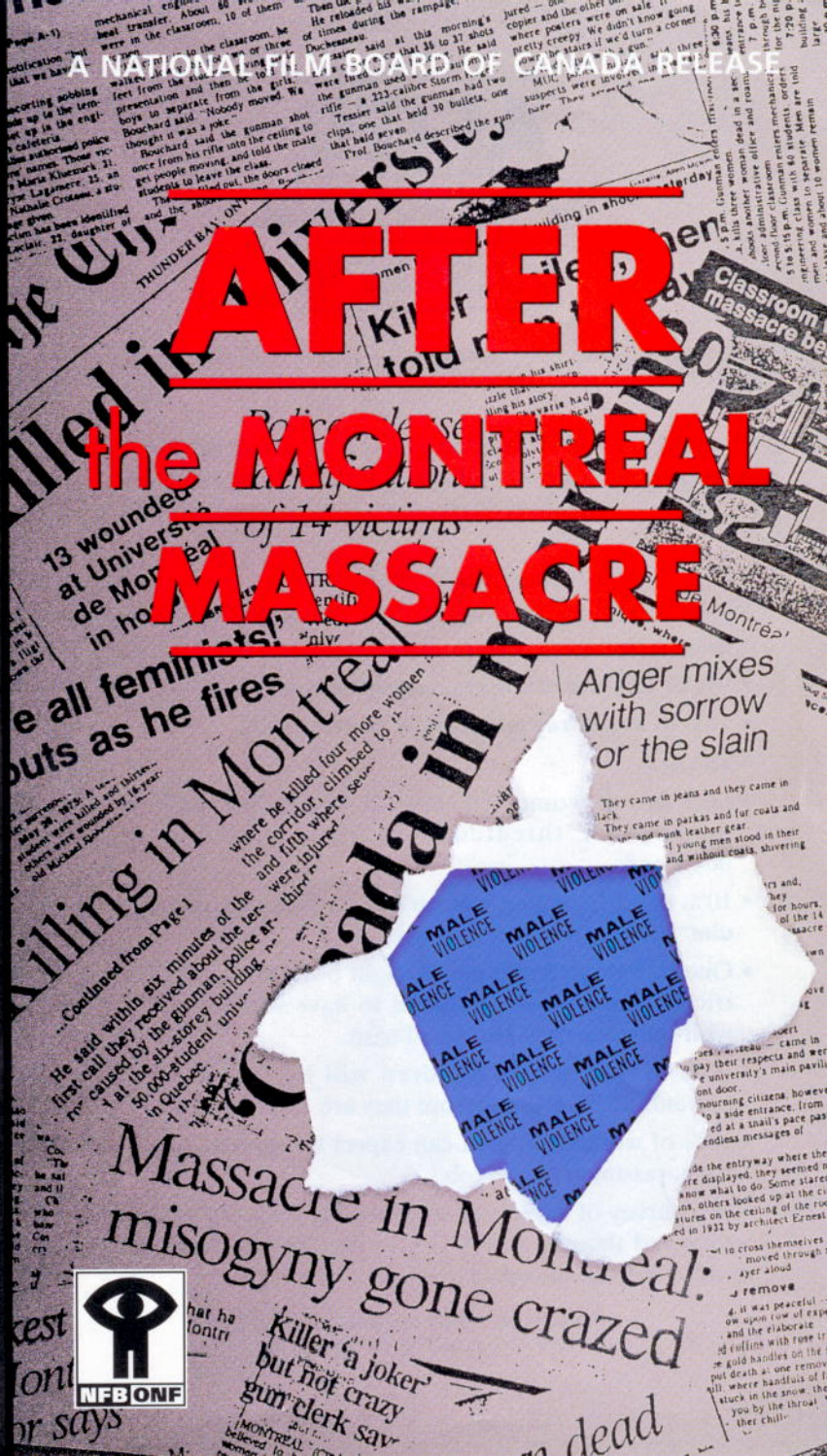




AFTER the MONTREAL MASSACRE

VHS
9190 097



AFTER

the MONTREAL

MASSACRE



AFTER

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MASSACRE

DID YOU KNOW?

- In Canada, an act of male violence against women occurs every six minutes. Half of these attacks occur in broad daylight.
- 75% of all assaults occur in the home.
- 62% of all assaulted women are physically injured in the attack.
- 9% of all assaulted women are beaten severely.
- One in twelve rapes will result in pregnancy.

This year:

- One in ten women in Canada will be hit, kicked, punched or threatened by their husbands or boyfriends.
- 10% of all Canadian women will be battered on a regular basis by the men they live with.
- One in four girls and one in eight boys will be bribed, tricked, threatened or forced to have sexual contact with someone they know and trust.
- Half of our female children will be subjected to unwanted sexual acts before they are 18 years old.
- 90% of working women can expect to experience sexual harassment on the job.
- In a survey of university students, the majority of men surveyed thought it was OK to use force to have sex with a woman on a date.

Kate Eccles, "Blow the Whistle on Violence,"
Images Magazine, July 30, 1990, p. 34.

THEMES FOR DISCUSSION

- 1.** In the days and months following the massacre, it became clear that many women experienced the murders on a very personal level. Why do you think that women felt the murders in such an immediate and personal way?
- 2.** Jack Todd, columnist with the *Montreal Gazette*, says that the Polytechnique murders reflect part of a pattern, similar to the man who shoves his girlfriend or the man who squeezes a waitress' bottom. What are women's common daily experiences of violence that fit into this pattern (verbal, physical, psychological, sexual)?
- 3.** Sociologist Linda McLeod describes a new form of playground violence where little boys simulate the rape of little girls. Where do boys learn this behaviour? How does popular culture and the media (television, music, video clips and games, advertising, etc.) influence young people and children?
- 4.** Journalist Francine Pelletier believes that the murders at École Polytechnique were a form of punishment for the gains women have accomplished in the last twenty years as a result of the women's liberation movement. As women's roles change and they assume a more powerful place in society, is there a price to be paid?
- 5.** Feminist activist and writer Charlotte Bunch says that violence against women, in its many forms, is the world's most pervasive and insidious form of human rights abuse. She calls this violence a war on women. What does she mean?
- 6.** Francine Pelletier says that fear is a common denominator amongst women, and Leona Heilig from the Montreal Assault Prevention Centre says that fear can make women feel like victims. Do you agree?
- 7.** Sylvie Gagnon says, "Marc Lepine is a symbol of death and hate... he is a problem, not an individual." What does she mean? Why do you think the media focused on the individual instead of on the problem of male violence in women's daily lives?
- 8.** Society defines gender roles along passive (female) / aggressive (male) lines. What difficulties have you experienced as a result of sex-role stereotyping?
- 9.** Young girls and women are not taught to fight back. They are often told that the best thing to do in case of attack is nothing. Recent studies show that women

have a better chance of avoiding rape, in most cases, if they struggle or fight back. What are some of the ways, both verbal and physical, that women can fight back?

10. "Men have to want the same things that women want... It is important that our messages become the same," says Francine Pelletier. Do you agree?

11. Through what actions can men take the responsibility for changing today's society, to put an end to male violence? What can women do? How can women and men work together?

SUGGESTED READINGS

Extensive resources regarding the subject of male violence, including books, periodicals and statistical reports, are available through local rape crisis centres and women's community centres.

AUDIENCE SETTING

Due to the sensitive nature of this video, previewing is strongly recommended. Disclosures of violence may surface after a screening. If someone seeks advice or help, the group leader can suggest a women's centre or sexual assault centre, or provide a handout with the appropriate phone numbers (found on the front page of telephone directories).

RELATED NFB FILMS AND VIDEOS

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WHERE ANGELS DARE (0193 054)
WITHOUT FEAR (9193 064)

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27 minutes 14 seconds
Order number: 9190 097

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mechanical engineering... transfer. About 50 students... in the classroom, 10 of them...
-He came in to the classroom, he... walked slowly, he got two or three... feet from the students giving their... presentation and then he told the... boys to separate from the girls... Bouchard said: "Nobody moved. We... thought it was a joke."
Bouchard said the gunman shot... once from his rifle into the ceiling to... get people moving, and told the male... students to leave the class.
The men filled out, the doors closed... and the shooting...

Then the gunman... He reloaded during the rampage, said... of times during the rampage, said... Duchesneau.
Tessier said at this morning's... news conference that 35 to 37 shots... were fired in the building. He said... the gunman used a semi-automatic... rifle — a .223-calibre Storm Ruger... Tessier said the gunman had two... clips, one that held 30 bullets, one... that held seven.
Prof. Bouchard described the gun-... jured — one was on sale. It was... where posters were on sale. It was... pretty creepy. We didn't know going... down the stairs if we'd turn a corner... and find a guy with a gun... MUC police initially said three... suspects were involved in the rampa... near Three...

7:30 p.m. — Gunman enters... through his... 7 p.m. — Gunman enters... through his... 7:20 p.m. — Gunman enters... through his... 10 p.m. — Gunman enters... through his... arrive A... Party... in empty... classroom... where he...

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where he...
within six minutes of the...
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by the gunman, police ar...
at the six-storey building...
in Qu...
He said within six...
first call they rece...
caused by the...
at the...
50,000...

SUGGESTED AUDIENCE

AFTER THE MONTREAL MASSACRE will be of interest to women and men searching for answers to questions about male violence. It will provide community groups and organizations, as well as educational institutions, with an excellent tool for beginning discussions about violence against women.

- Community, youth and church groups and women wanting to address male violence against women.
- Senior secondary school — values education, media literacy, family life, and health education. Colleges and universities — women's studies, humanities, media, journalism, communications, sociology, political science, psychology.

Building in shock yesterday...
Classroom where massacre began...
Main...
Montreal...
mixes...
row...
slain...
and they came in...
and fur coats and...
her gear...
men stood...
way where the...
they seemed not...
to go. Some stared at...
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ed at a snail's pace past...
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the entryway where the...
displayed, they seemed not...
what to do. Some stared at...
thers looked up at the circular...
on the ceiling of the room...
12 by architect Ernest...
to cross themselves. Some...
moved through the...
ayer aloud...
remove...
it was peaceful — but...
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and the elaborate...
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or gold handles on the side...
put death at one remove...
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you by the throat...
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gun clerk sav...
MONTREAL...
believed...
some...
dead

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"VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, INCLUDING ASSAULT, MUTILATION, MURDER, INFANTICIDE, RAPE AND CRUEL NEGLECT, IS PERHAPS THE MOST PERVERSIVE YET LEAST RECOGNIZED HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN THE WORLD."

*World Watch Institute
Washington, 1989*

December 6, 1989. Sylvie Gagnon was attending her last day of classes at École Polytechnique, an engineering school in Montreal, when Marc Lepine entered the building. Systematically separating the women from the men, he opened fire on women students, yelling "you're all a bunch of feminists." Sylvie survived a bullet wound to the head while fourteen other women were murdered.

AFTER THE MONTREAL MASSACRE is a useful tool for helping us come to terms with these murders and how they relate to the larger picture

of male violence against women. Women throughout Canada and the world are expressing a growing concern about the widespread violence and mounting fear in their daily lives. The haunting images taken on the day of the massacre and in the days following, set the stage for an exploration of the urgent issues of misogyny, male violence and sexism.

Testimony from Sylvie Gagnon about what the massacre means to her, conversations with a group of college students, and interviews with noted writers, feminist activists, and leaders of organizations for women, contribute to this moving and important documentary which provides a challenge for change in our political, social and personal lives.

A co-production of NFB / Studio D and CBC.

Director: **Gerry Rogers**
Producer: **Nicole Hubert**
27 minutes 14 seconds
Order number: 9190 097

NFB VIDEO SALES 1-800-267-7710



Closed captioned.
A decoder is required.

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